

University of South Florida
International Services
OPT TRAVEL ADVISORY
TRAVELING WHILE ON OPT WITH AN EAD

If you are currently on Optional Practical Training following graduation and you have a job or a job offer to return to, you may be eligible to leave the U.S. and re-enter to resume work at the same job OR to start your new job.

Eligibility to exit and reenter the U.S. depends on whether you have all of the following:

- 1) A valid, unexpired foreign passport.
- 2) A valid, unexpired F-1 student visa stamp in your passport*
- 3) An OPT I-20 signed within the last 6 months by an International Services Advisor at USF.
- 4) Letter from your current employer including:
 - a. Brief job title, job description and mention of the fact that you are traveling for business or pleasure and that you will be returning to your job upon your return to the U.S. OR
 - b. A job offer letter from an employer listing your name, job title, job description and expected dates of employment.

*For short term travel to and from a territory that is contiguous to the U.S., refer to the International Services handout about Automatic Visa Revalidation.

Please remember that during OPT your job **MUST** be related to your field of study and commensurate with your level of study.

This travel advisory and recommendation from International Services is based on a NAFSA: Association of International Educators summary from a SEVIS Conference Call held on January 12, 2005 that **interpreted federal travel regulations, which are stated below:**

8 CFR 214.2 (f)(13)(ii): TRAVEL WHILE AUTHORIZED FOR EMPLOYMENT

“An F-1 student who has an unexpired EAD issued for post-completion-practical training and who is otherwise admissible may return to the United States to resume employment after a period of temporary absence. The EAD must be used in combination with an I-20 ID endorsed for re-entry by the DSO within the last six months.”